

## PETFORM ORGANIZES NATURAL GAS TRAINING FOR AA



Turkey's Oil Platform Association (PETFORM) organized a training program for Anadolu Agency's Energy News Desk reporters on Friday. Renowned specialists from Turkey's energy market gave lectures on natural gas and its significance and position in Turkey's global energy market. The five-hour-long training took place at the headquarters of PETFORM in Turkish capital Ankara.

>>> ENERGY

## DICAPRIO, SPOTLIGHT WIN OSCARS



After five unsuccessful nominations, actor Leonardo DiCaprio won Sunday night the Oscar award for best actor for his role in 'The Revenant' at the 88th Academy Awards in Los Angeles. The Revenant has Leonardo DiCaprio, 41, playing the role of a frontiersman in the 19th century who, following a bear attack, is left for dead in the wilderness. The Revenant's Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu won the best director for the second year in a row. Last year, he won the same prize for Birdman. Inarritu is the first to win the award consecutively since Joseph Mankiewicz in 1949-50.

>>> CULTURE-ART

## FITCH AFFIRMS TURKEY'S RATING AT 'BBB-'; OUTLOOK STABLELEAGUE



The Fitch credit rating agency on Friday affirmed Turkey's long-term foreign and local currency issuer ratings at 'BBB-' and 'BBB', respectively, with a stable outlook. "The issue ratings on Turkey's senior unsecured foreign and local currency bonds have also been affirmed at 'BBB-' and 'BBB', respectively, while the country ceiling has been affirmed at 'BBB' and the short-term foreign currency at 'F3'," Fitch said. Noting that despite holding two parliamentary elections in 2015, Fitch said Turkey's fiscal discipline remained in place.

>>> ECONOMY

## WEATHER / ANKARA



Monday  
CLOUDY  
12°C



Tuesday  
CLOUDY  
22°C



# ANADOLU POST

Monday February 29, 2016

## Turkey objects to PKK-led 'terror state' in northern Syria

### Presidential aide rails against PYD, YPG expansion into non-Kurdish areas close to Turkish border



Turkey's presidential spokesman on Saturday outlined the country's opposition to PKK-linked terror groups gaining control of territory in northern Syria.

"What Ankara opposes is a PKK-led political entity and terror state that is now being sought out in northern Syria thanks to the misplaced support of the U.S., Russia and the

[Bashar al-] Assad regime," Ibrahim Kalin said in his weekly column in the Daily Sabah newspaper.

The Syrian PYD and its armed wing the YPG are both seen as terrorist organizations by the Turkish government and are affiliated to the PKK, which has waged an armed campaign in Turkey since 1984. Supported by U.S. and, more re-

cently, Russian air power, the YPG has made territorial gains along the Turkish border.

"What is happening is rather a de facto expansion of the PKK's Syrian affiliate into the non-Kurdish areas of northern Syria," Kalin said. "The PYD and YPG are known for human rights violations and, according to Amnesty International, have possibly committed war crimes by the 'razing of villages'."

In recent weeks, the Turkish military has shelled YPG positions in northern Syria in response to artillery fire from YPG forces based around Azaz in Aleppo province.

Turkey has also accused the YPG of involvement in the Feb. 17 car bomb attack in Ankara that killed 29.

"The PKK feels emboldened by the support its Syrian branch receives in

the so-called fight against Daesh," Kalin added. "It uses the war in Syria to recruit new members and carry out attacks in Turkey."

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's aide further criticized Washington and Moscow's support for the PYD and YPG in Syria as "primarily serving the interests of Russia and the Assad regime." He added: "The reality is that the U.S. is using the YPG against Daesh, Russia is using it to support the Assad regime, and Assad is using it for his own survival and against Turkey. "Everyone should make a clear distinction between the PYD and YPG and the Kurds of Syria and harbor no animosity for them. Just as the PKK does not represent Kurds in Turkey, the PYD is not the sole representative of Kurds of Syria." >>>MORE DETAILS

## Turkish PM slams PKK supporters



Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has criticized supporters of PKK terrorist group, emphasizing that no one can scare citizens of Turkey.

Davutoglu made the remarks Saturday during the opening ceremony of 18 new facilities for the public, including cultural centers and parks in Turkey's eastern Bingol province.

He also criticized opposition parties, especially the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP).

"Those who hope to benefit

from terror and those who never draw back their hands from the trigger will never progress," he said.

He said that the Turkish government and security forces are present in every corner of the country. "No one can scare us," he said. Davutoglu said that his AK Party always said it was solution oriented. He called on everyone, including non-governmental organizations, intellectuals and academia, for contributing towards a solution for permanent peace in Turkey.

A deputy of the HDP party recently paid a visit to offer condolences to the family of a suicide bomber, who killed 29 people and injured 60 others in the Feb. 17 terrorist attack in Ankara.

>>>MORE DETAILS

## Russia coal mine explosion death toll reaches 36



The death toll from three separate explosions at a coal mine in northern Russia's Komi Republic has reached 36, Russian authorities said Sunday.

According to Russian Ministry of Emergencies, an explosion in the mine also took place during a search-and-rescue operation, which killed five rescue workers and a miner in the Severnaya coal mine in Vorkuta city.

There were a total of 111 workers inside the mine out of which 81 were rescued on Feb. 25 following an explosion.

Denis Paikin, technical director of Vorkutaugol, the company operating the mine, said three explosions took place and hinted that the remaining trapped 26 miners may not survive.

After visiting the mine, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich also said: "There is no possibility the 26 trapped miners may still be alive."

>>>MORE DETAILS

## Police officer martyred in Turkey's southeast Mardin



A police officer was martyred and two others injured in a rocket attack by suspected PKK terrorists in southeastern Turkey early Sunday, a police source said.

The attack at around 6.00 a.m. local time (0400GMT) in Nusaybin, a town on the Syrian border in Mardin province, targeted an armored vehicle in the Dicle neighborhood, the source said on condition of anonymity due to restrictions on speaking to the media. The victims were taken to Nusaybin State Hospital, where one later died from his wounds. Security forces launched a search for the attackers. Southeast Turkey has been the scene of significant counter-terrorism operations since December as security forces clear urban centers of the PKK, which is designated a terrorist organization by Turkey, the U.S. and EU. The group renewed its armed campaign against the Turkish state in July and since then more than 270 members... >>>MORE DETAILS

## Turkish president makes first Ivory Coast official visit

### Erdogan will visit Ghana, Nigeria and Guinea next during his ongoing West Africa tour



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made his first official visit to the Ivory Coast on Sunday, which will give a boost to bilateral ties.

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara, his wife Dominique Ouattara, Prime Minister Daniel

Kablan Duncan and Ambassador of Turkey to Ivory Coast Esra Demir received Erdogan at the Felix Houphouet Boigny Airport. Erdogan also greeted 60 other local tribal leaders at the airport.

Turkey's investments in the country reached \$150 million in 2015.

Both countries now aim to boost trade volume to \$1 billion by 2020. Erdogan will visit Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria and Guinea during his ongoing West Africa tour. He launched his sub-Saharan Africa tour with a visit to Senegal last month. >>>MORE DETAILS

## Assad regime accused of killing 29 since Syria deal

### Syrian High Negotiations Committee head accuses Assad regime, Russia, Iran and other foreign armed units of violating recent cessation of hostilities deal



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and hinted that the remaining trapped 26 miners may not survive.

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Dvorkovich said altogether the death toll was now 36, which included rescue workers and miners.

The caretaker head of Komi Republic declared Sunday, Monday and Tuesday as days of mourning.

Turkish Foreign Ministry in a statement Sunday expressed condolences over the incident to the Russian people and the families of those killed. >>>MORE DETAILS

## Assad regime accused of killing 29 since Syria deal

Syrian opposition has accused the Syrian regime and its allies of killing 29 people in attacks following the recently agreed cessation of hostilities agreement.

In a letter sent to the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Sunday, head of the opposition-linked Syrian

High Negotiations Committee, Riyad Hijab, said that the Bashar al-Assad regime, Russia, Iran and other foreign armed units were carrying out attacks against Syrian people despite an agreement to cease hostilities entering into force on Feb. 27.

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## Turkey prevented 18 attacks this year: Interior minister

### Efkan Ala says police were on alert before Feb. 17 Ankara attack



Eighteen attacks in Turkey have been prevented so far this year, Interior Minister Efkan Ala said Sunday. "As the Interior Ministry and police department, we had already warned all related units to stay alert against a possible [attack]," he said in an interview with Kanal 7 TV. "In this way, we have thwarted 18 such incidents." Ala was referring to security measures taken before the Feb. 17 Ankara car bomb attack that killed 29 people, mostly members of the military.

The minister said an inquiry had been launched to uncover any po-

tential negligence in the run-up to the attack.

Referring to the explosives-laden car used in the Ankara attack, he added: "We have also captured three out of such four vehicles. A suspect was also nabbed and arrested in Istanbul's Bosphorus area the previous day.

"We are not openly revealing most of these, as we should not. We are just striving to maintain the peace of our citizens." Asked whether the authorities had gathered further information on Ankara attack, Ala reiterated that the bomber was identified shortly after the explosion and the public informed. "The whole network was soon brought to light, including those who had brought the vehicle, who sold it and delivered it," he said. "A total of 25 suspects were taken into custody. Fifteen of them were held on remand. The investigation is still underway." >>>MORE DETAILS

## PKK attacks Turkey-KRG Oil Pipeline once again

### The terrorist organization attacks the pipeline second time in a week



PKK terrorist organization attacked the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik oil pipeline on Feb. 25 once again after Feb. 17, said Turkey's Energy and Natural Resources Ministry on Saturday. The ministry reminded in a written statement that the PKK is responsible for damaging the pipeline inside the Turkish province of Sanliurfa on Feb. 17, causing a weeklong suspension of oil exports to Turkey. "Once again the terrorist group attacked the pipeline on Feb. 25. Due to cessation of oil flow fire outbreak didn't occur at the area, however pipes are

damaged," said the ministry. The energy ministry said that terrorist organization can attempt all kinds of things to target regional stability and collaboration.

"Also the group is a big threat for international trade. These attacks on the pipeline, which is an important source of income for the Kurdish Regional Government's (KRG), proved that PKK is a big obstacle for the welfare of Kurdish people in the region," the ministry stated. In a written statement published on the ruling Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP)'s official website on Wednesday, KRG spokesman Sefin Dizayi said PKK terrorist organization cost KRG in north of Iraq some \$100 million by sabotaging the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik oil pipeline on Feb. 17

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